United Nations A/68/739

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 February 2014

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 140
Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note was prepared pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 65/270, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to expedite the implementation of that resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Joint Inspection Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations in the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and through the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved.

2. In accordance with the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB and through the secretariat of CEB, provides substantive support to the Unit. This occurs primarily during the preparation of Joint Inspection Unit reports and, most significantly, after a report of system-wide concern has been completed. In accordance with the mandate of the Unit, the secretariat of CEB circulates to United Nations system organizations all reports that have a system-wide focus and compiles the comments received. During this process, and as a matter of normal practice, the secretariat requests organizations to respond within the deadline provided in order to produce, within the mandated time frame, the comments of the Secretary-General and those of CEB members.

3. During 2013, the CEB secretariat prepared comments for seven Joint Inspection Unit system-wide reports, principally from the programme of work of the previous year. In each case, the secretariat requested organizations to comment on the final version of the report, including the methodology used during its preparation and the content of the recommendations. These comments are collated and issued as United Nations documents under cover of a note by the Secretary-General and reflect the overall consensus of the United Nations system, although each organization may choose to address the specific recommendations within the framework of its governing bodies.

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4. In addition to circulating and commenting on Joint Inspection Unit reports of system-wide concern, the CEB secretariat continues to work very closely with the Unit on the preparation of its annual programme of work. The CEB secretariat provides substantive input regarding specific proposals and facilitates the process as requested by the secretariat of the Joint Inspection Unit.

5. The CEB secretariat continues to maintain a constant dialogue with the Joint Inspection Unit to ensure a smooth report preparation process and to identify methods for enhancing the value of the Unit's reports. During 2013, the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management of CEB provided input into the preparation of the report on long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system and the Information and Communication Technology Network supported the preparation of the report on enterprise resource planning systems. In addition, the Human Resources Network provided input into reports that concern human resource issues. These examples are indicative of the regular participation of the sub-bodies of CEB in the preparation of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. As regards organizations' consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, chapter I, section F of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 (A/68/34) contains detailed information about the actions taken by organizations of CEB in follow-up to recommendations of the Unit.

7. The Secretary-General will continue to pursue a closer working relationship with the Joint Inspection Unit and to encourage all organizations to respond in a timely manner and in a spirit of cooperation to requests of the Unit.